

Community Engagement (formerly Stewardship) Ministry

October 25, 2023

GRATITUDE

Our Stewardship Ministry is 4 years old! Along the way, our work has centered around recognizing, sharing, and celebrating the abundant gifts that we've received as a parish and as individuals. The ministry has worked to bring new ideas, materials, and resources to our effort. We are grateful for the availability of state-of-the-art resources that help us to engage our work, including this year's materials from the Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), which reminds that St. Paul's is truly 'rooted in abundance'.

MINISTRY WORK

In all of these past four years, the ministry has enthusiastically embraced other TENS themes, 'Faith-Filled Giving', 'Every Perfect Gift' 'More Than Enough'; and consistently rejected the view of our work as a simple fundraising function. Rather, the ministry has adopted the intentional practice of celebrating and sharing the things we've been given (abundance) and avoided the temptation to become fascinated by the things that appear to be scarce or needful. We consistently asked, 'How can we, as a parish and individuals, put the gifts we've been given, (our time, treasure, talent, history, relationships, expertise) to the highest and best use?'

Obviously, the tasks of the stewardship team have and continue to include the administration of our annual pledge campaign, education on planned giving, and eventually, the coordination of a capital campaign. But these tasks are not the reason for the ministry's existence. No! The ministry's work has been about recognizing, celebrating, and sharing what we've been given in order to open doors, welcome neighbors, share gifts, and build community.

BUILDING COMMUNITY – OUR 150TH WORKGROUP

The 150th workgroup was an ad hoc committee that operated under the auspices of the Stewardship Ministry. The team included members from a number of other ministries and committees, building community within our own effort. The work was truly about building or restoring relationships with each other, our neighbors, friends, and historical collaborators. The events simply afforded us the opportunities to pursue that work, engaging with our friends and neighbors, building community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Among the abundant gifts we celebrate at St. Paul's, our relationships with each other and our neighbors are central to the work of building community. Going forward, we pray that the work of our team will continue to help us become ever more grateful and faithful stewards of these relationships and all of the many gifts that we've been given.